

**Offered by Councilor Mark Ciommo**

Baker, Essaibi-George, Edwards, Flaherty, Flynn, Garrison, McCarthy, Wu,  
Zakim and Campbell



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**HOME RULE PETITION**

- WHEREAS*, The Charles River Speedway Building has a long history in Allston-Brighton dating back to 1899 when it served as the headquarters of the Metropolitan Park Commission and the centerpiece of the Charles River Basin Reservation; and
- WHEREAS*, The Reservation was anchored by a mile long harness racing track until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century when the track was removed and integrated into Soldiers Field Road; and
- WHEREAS*, The Speedway Building slowly fell into disrepair over the next half century as park operations were moved to other locations; and
- WHEREAS*, The planned restoration of the Speedway Building will help revitalize this section of Allston-Brighton by creating a gathering place for neighbors and visitors, opportunities for local artisans and small business owners, as well as a mix of retail and dining options; and
- WHEREAS*, The Architectural Heritage Foundation, Inc., a Massachusetts non-profit corporation, was selected through an open and public process by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in accordance with the historic curatorship program established in Section 44 of Chapter 85 of the Acts of 1994 to restore the property, and
- WHEREAS*, The sustainable preservation of the Speedway Administration Building in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation, requires adaptive reuse for non-profit organization offices, artist studio or commercial or retail space, and
- WHEREAS*, With a non-transferable license for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises, the Architectural Heritage Foundation, Inc. will be able to attract a larger pool of tenants to the restored Speedway Building making the continued preservation of the building possible, while also creating space for a local brewery to grow; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

*ORDERED,* That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston, to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance for the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO GRANT ONE ADDITIONAL LICENSE FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE DRUNK ON THE PREMISES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws, the licensing board of the city of Boston may grant 1 additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to section 12 of said chapter 138. The license granted pursuant to this act shall be: (i) restricted to the so called Charles River Speedway Administration Building consisting of various buildings located at the intersection of Soldiers Field Road, Western Avenue, North Arsenal Street, and Leo M. Birmingham Parkway in the Brighton section of the city of Boston; (ii) clearly marked "Speedway restricted" on its face; and (iii) subject to all of said chapter 138 except said section 17.

(b) The licensing board shall not approve the transfer of the license granted pursuant to this act to a location outside of the Charles River Speedway Administration Building Development, but it may grant the license to a new applicant within the Charles River Speedway Administration Building Development if the applicant files with the licensing board a letter from the department of revenue and a letter from the department of unemployment assistance indicating that the license is in good standing with those departments and that all applicable taxes, fees and contributions have been paid.

(c) If the license granted pursuant to this act is cancelled, revoked or no longer in use, the license shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights, privileges and restrictions pertaining thereto, to the licensing board and the licensing board may then grant that license to a new applicant in the city's Charles River Speedway Administration Building Development under the same conditions as specified in this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Filed in Council: July 31, 2019*